

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-22, 25, and 74 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of conducting an electronic online auction on behalf of a buyer, wherein the auction is between a plurality of potential bidders, competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, the method comprising the steps of:

[[a)] receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder according to one or more first comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder;

[[b)] storing information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids, including said first bid, on a common competitive basis; and

[[c)] transmitting second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder that is different than said context of said first bidder to said second bidder, said transmitted second bid information representing the first bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid parameters of the second bidder and enabling said second bidder to view said first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of said second bidder[;],

~~wherein steps (a) - (c) are performed electronically by at least one computer during the electronic auction; wherein the first bidder and the second bidder are different seller parties, and the buyer is different from the first bidder and the second bidder.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of (d) generating~~ a transformed bid using said received first bid information according to a predetermined algorithm associated with the buyer, ~~and wherein step (a) comprises the step of receiving untransformed bid information.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~step (d) generating a transformed bid~~ comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a linear transformation having at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~step (d) generating a transformed bid~~ comprises ~~the step of~~ multiplying a received bid price[[,]] specified in a local currency of said first bidder[[,]] with a pre-defined exchange rate to yield a base currency bid price.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~step (d) generating a transformed bid~~ comprises ~~the step of~~ transforming a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder, wherein the multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments are performed according to the

predetermined algorithm defined by the buyer, and wherein the predetermined algorithm is not exposed to the first and second bidders.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a non-linear transformation.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ transforming received bid information using a lookup table.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (a)~~ receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder comprises ~~the step of~~ receiving transformed bid information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~step (a)~~ receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder comprises ~~the step of~~ receiving a bid price in a base currency, wherein said bid price is originally defined in a local currency of said first bidder.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~step (b)~~ storing information reflective of said submitted first bid further comprises generating detransformed bid

information, and wherein ~~step (e)~~ transmitting second bid information further comprises the ~~step of~~ transmitting said detransformed bid information to said second bidder.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a linear transformation having at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ converting a base currency price into a bid price in a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ converting a received bid price specified in a local currency of said first bidder into a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ transforming a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a non-linear transformation.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a transformation using a lookup table.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~step (d)~~ generating a transformed bid comprises ~~the step of~~ performing a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (e)~~ transmitting second bid information comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting second bid information to be transformed by said second bidder.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~step (e)~~ transmitting second bid information comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting a base currency price to be transformed by said second bidder into a local currency of said second bidder.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting an electronic online auction on behalf of a buyer, wherein the auction is between a plurality of potential bidders competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, the system comprising:

means for receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder according to one or more first comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder;

means for storing information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids including said first bid on a common competitive basis; and

means for transmitting second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder that is different than said context of said first bidder to said second bidder, said transmitted second bid information representing the first bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid parameters of the second bidder and enabling said second bidder to view said first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of said second bidder,

wherein the first bidder and the second bidder are different seller parties, and the buyer is different from the first bidder and the second bidder.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for generating a transformed bid using said received first bid information according to a predetermined algorithm associated with the buyer ~~and wherein said received first bid information is untransformed bid information.~~

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said means for generating performs a linear transformation using at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said means for generating multiplies a received bid price, specified in a local currency of said first bidder, with a pre-defined exchange rate to yield a base currency bid price.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein said means for generating transforms a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder, wherein the multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments are performed according to the predetermined algorithm defined by the buyer, and wherein the predetermined algorithm is not exposed to the first and second bidders.

26. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said means for generating performs a non-linear transformation.

27. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said means for generating transforms received bid information using a lookup table.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said means for generating performs a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said received first bid information is transformed bid information.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said received first bid information is a bid price in a base currency, wherein said bid price is originally defined in a local currency of said first bidder.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, further comprising means for generating detransformed bid information, wherein said transmitted second bid information comprises detransformed bid information.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a linear transformation using at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for generating converts a base currency price into a bid price in a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating converts a received bid price specified in a local currency of said first bidder into a local currency of said, second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for generating transforms a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based

upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder.

36. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a non-linear transformation.

37. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a transformation using a lookup table.

38. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

39. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said transmitted second bid information is to be transformed by said second bidder.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein said transmitted second bid information is a base currency price to be transformed by said second bidder into a local currency of said second bidder.

41- 73 (Canceled).

74. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to process bidding information in an auction conducted on behalf of a buyer, wherein

the auction is between a plurality of bidders competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having a computer readable program code embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said computer readable program code comprising

a first computer readable program code to receive first bid information for the lot from a first bidder, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder according to one or more first comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder;

a second computer readable program code to store information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids including said first bid on a common competitive basis; and

a third computer readable program code for to transmit second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder that is different than said context of said first bidder to said second bidder, said transmitted second bid information representing the first bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid parameters of the second bidder and enabling said second bidder to view said first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of said second bidder[[:]],

wherein the first bidder and the second bidder are different seller parties, and
the buyer is different from the first bidder and the second bidder.

75. (Canceled).